

# A G E N D A

**Thursday 22 November 2018 at 6.30 pm  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Voting entitlement for member organisations (Pages 3 - 4)**
- 3 Minutes of the 2017 AGM (Pages 5 - 12)**
- 4 To receive a verbal report from the Chairman on the Town Forum's activities over the past year**
- 5 To elect a Chairman and Deputy Chairmen 2018/19 - to follow**
- 6 Membership Changes**
  - a Membership Applications (for noting)
  - b Changes of Representatives (for information)
- 7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 27 September 2018 (Pages 13 - 20)**
- 8 Actions from Previous Meetings, held on 27 September**  
To be confirmed.
- 9 Reports from the Working Groups (10 mins in total)**
  - a Report of the Transport Working Group (Pages 21 - 22)
  - b Report of the Strategic Planning Working Group
  - c Report of the Water in the Wells Working Group (Pages 23 - 24)
  - d Report of the Culture, Leisure and Tourism Working Group
  - e Report of the Finance and Other Issues Working Group
- 10 TWAANG - update on Gatwick expansion and response to the consultation**
- 11 Business Improvement District - update from Town Centre Manager, Karen Pengelly**
- 12 Updates from Local Residents' Groups**
- 13 Any Other Business**

### **Date of the Next Meeting**

Dates of meetings proposed for 2019 (starting at 6.30pm)

Thursday 24 January

Thursday 28 March

Thursday 16 May  
Thursday 18 July  
Thursday 12 September  
Thursday 21 November  
Thursday 23 January (2020)  
Thursday 19 March (2020)

# Agenda Item 2

## TOWN FORUM – VOTING ENTITLEMENT OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AT THE AGM, 2018

**Organisations/ward members who have achieved at least 3 attendances during 2017/18 (= 50% of meetings) including Sept 2018:** (36 out of 42 active groups)

Benhall Mill Road Land Association  
Beulah Road Residents' Association  
Boyne Park Residents' Association\*  
Calverley Park Residents' Association  
Calverley Park Crescent Association\*  
Camden Park Residents' Association  
Clarence Road Users' Association  
Culverden Residents' Association\*  
Friends of Calverley Grounds  
Friends of the Commons  
Friends of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park  
Friends of the Grove\*  
Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery\*  
Friends of Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery  
Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery  
Grantley Court Residents' Association\*  
Grove Hill House Residents' Association  
Hawkenbury Village Association  
Inner London Road Residents' Association\*  
Kingswood Residents' Association  
Poona Road Residents' Association  
Residents First\*  
Royal Tunbridge Wells Civic Society\*  
Sherborne Close Management Committee

# Agenda Item 2

St John's Road Residents' Association

Telephone House Neighbours' Association\*

The Avenues Residents' Association\*

Trinity Theatre

Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group\*

Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum\*

Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival\*

Tunbridge Wells Twinning & Friendship Association

Tunbridge Wells U3A

TWAANG

The Forum

Warwick Park Residents' Association\*

(\*= 100% attendance)

Ward councillors (11 out of 19):

Mrs Barbara Cobbold

Peter Bulman

Ben Chapelard

Lawrence Heasman

Peter Lidstone

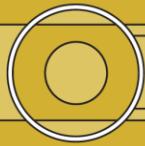
Tracy Moore

James Scholes

Lynne Weatherly

Chris Woodward

**Organisations and ward members not listed will be unable to vote at the AGM, as they have not been able to meet the attendance requirement set out in the Constitution.**



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

### ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

**Thursday 27 September 2018**

**Attended:** Diana Butler, Caroline Auckland, Sally Balcon, Adrian Berendt (Chairman), Lorna Blackmore, Mark Booker, Stephen Bowser, John Cunningham, John De Lucy, Cllr Mark Ellis, Irene Fairbairn, Jane Fenwick, Alex Green (Vice-Chair), Tim Harper, Cllr Lawrence Heasman, Kyrios Kyriacou, Brian Lippard, Linda Lewis, Katharina Mahler-Bech, Helen Mitcham, Cllr Tracy Moore, Marguerita Morton, Peter Perry, Cllr Nick Pope, Cllr James Scholes, Cllr David Scott, Don Sloan, Tim Tempest, Alastair Tod, David Wakefield, Denise Watts, and Pat Wilson.

**TWBC officers present:** Mathew Jefferys (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), David Candlin (Head of Economic Development and Property), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment),

**Also present:** None

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from Michael Holman, Dorothea Holman, Margaret Ginman, Katharina Mahler-Bech, Karen Pengelly, Cllrs Lynne Weatherly and Peter Lidstone

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following membership changes were noted:

1. The Banner Farm residents association had reactivated its membership. The representatives appointed were Diana Wilson-Armstrong and Veronika Segall-Jones (substitute).
2. Grove Hill House Residents' Association had appointed Robert Chris to replace Chris Gedge as the nominated representative.

#### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman highlighted the following points:

It was very important that those members who had not returned their forms confirming evidence of AGMs taking place and details of discussions (minutes), details of appointed representatives and proof of a correctly constituted organisation, provide the required information.

New members were urgently sought for the working groups and the Management Group. Members of the Management Group had been involved for some time and a meeting had been held at the location of the Calverley Park Gardens and Carrs Corner junction with Kent County Council (KCC) Head of Transportation Tim Reed, KCC cabinet member, Catherine Rankin and borough councillor, Tracy Moore. There was a traffic accident during the site visit highlighting the issues involved and it was hoped that a commitment to finding a solution would be made.

The Chairman had received a national '20's Plenty' campaigner of the year award, recognising his voluntary work and commitment towards bringing 20 mph zones into Kent. There were currently three areas in Tunbridge Wells that were 20 mph zones and it was hoped that this could be expanded to all residential roads in the town.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting dated 5 July 2018 were submitted for approval. The following actions were noted:

Members were still able to suggest topics for the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme following the presentation by the Committee's Chairman, Tom Dawlings, at the September meeting. Members were able to contact Councillor Dawlings directly or the Scrutiny and Engagement Officer, Nick Peeters.

Tunbridge Wells Hospital were due to receive four twiddle boards from members to help assist with congestive therapy for dementia patients.

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2018 be approved.

**5. UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM**

Councillor Jane March, the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism, provided an update on her areas of responsibility. Councillor March highlighted the following points:

The collaboration agreement for the Cultural and Learning Hub had been signed and sent to the Heritage Lottery Fund where it was anticipated the agreement would be accepted and the first tranche of funding released, allowing work to commence.

The following responses were provided to questions from members:

Once the current museum and gallery were closed, all of the collection would be put into storage (with the help of volunteers) and there were discussions were ongoing, with an agreement close to signing, for the library to be housed close to the existing site. The adult education facility would be at another venue. The online research facilities provided by the Library would continue to be available.

There were no action points arising from this update report.

**6. PUBLIC REALM PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Head of Environment and Street Scene, Gary Stevenson, provided an update on the progress of the public realm phase 2 works. Mr Stevenson highlighted the following points:

The next phase of the work would be from Five Ways down to Mount Pleasant Road. The scheme was being funded by the Sustainable Transport Fund along with some funding from the borough council. The intention was to improve the space around the war memorial and make it more pedestrian-friendly, whilst also creating wider footways and allowing shops and restaurants to move further out. The bus services would remain as they were. The indicative design included steps either side of the war memorial and planning permission would be required for this element.

The area outside the Cultural and Learning Hub would have a different surface treatment to accommodate its use as an exhibition space or as a space for table and chairs to be used by the café. Some of the permit spaces would be lost as a result of

# Agenda Item 3

Thursday 5 July 2018

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

the disabled parking spaces currently outside the Cultural and Learning Hub moving further along towards the main entrance to the Town Hall. The car-club space would be moved to Civic Way and an electric recharging point would be provided.

The bus operators were reluctant to see any of the bus-stops removed and as the funding was from the Sustainable Transport Fund budget and the Council had to be mindful of any impact on public transport. There was one bus-stop outside the Adult Education Centre in Monson Road that was currently subject to discussion as to whether it was required.

The scheme was not designed to specifically tackle congestion but to enhance the area and encourage residents and visitors to avoid using cars for short journeys and use public transport. It was anticipated that traffic would disperse around the town's traffic network. Access by buses would be similar to phase 1 and taxis would be permitted to travel through phase 2 to allow pick up and drop offs.

The following comments were made by members:

It was felt that the level of consultation had not sufficient and that a working group appointed by the Town Forum could look at this issue. It was also felt that the public relations element of the first phase of the public realm works had not been managed properly and there was an opportunity for more consultation and publicity for the second phase.

Concern remained over the layout from the first phase through to the second phase and in particular the retention of the island into Five Ways which still gave the impression of a narrower road through to the junction of Church Road/ Mount Pleasant Road/Crescent Road rather than a town square layout as originally envisaged.

It was felt that the area between Tesco and Royal Victoria Place was better suited for increasing bus interchange. It was also the view that the scheme should provide the best bus service possible to residents and visitors.

Phase 3 needed consideration and how it integrated into phase 2 as well as with traffic in Camden Road and Carr's Corner.

The following responses were provided to questions from members:

The space in front of the Cultural and Learning hub would be at the same level throughout.

The stone treatment for the steps either side of the war memorial would be blended in to match the structure. The exact material was yet to be decided but needed to be sympathetic to existing materials and fit-for-purpose.

The trees either side of the war memorial would probably have to be removed if there was likely to be damage to the works from the roots. At least one tree where the car-club space was currently sited would probably have to be removed as it was almost dead. The trees would be replaced in other areas.

The lights at the junction of Church Road/Mount Pleasant Road/Crescent Road would be retained. However, the phasing of the lights would be looked at to ensure it supported the scheme.

It was anticipated that the Farmers' Market would need relocating during the construction phase of the Cultural and Learning Hub.

The addition of the two sets of stairs was identified as a requirement early on in the scheme and took into consideration the increase in footfall that would follow the opening of the Cultural and Learning Hub.

There were time limits on the funding and a number of iterations had been worked through, and the scheme was at the last point of detailed design. The outline design was fixed and had been agreed by the Cabinet. There would not be an opportunity to revisit the relocation of bus-stops. The bus companies and Kent County Council had been consulted as part of the scheme and funding requirements. A need remained for the slowing down of traffic through the space outlined in phase 2, in particular for buses, and the design met this need.

The design team met on a regular basis with its final meeting due the following week. There was a possibility that representatives from the Town Forum could be included in that discussion. There had been issues around the quality of work during the first phase and the design had not allowed for vehicles over-running the tactile areas. These issues were being taken into account during the second phase of work.

The position and dimensions of the island had to be retained in order to effectively slow down the traffic. However the signage could be reduced to allow a more improved vista from Monson Road.

The junction at top of Camden Road/Monson Road/Calverley Road had current planning consent via Royal Victoria Place for improvement works. However, Royal Victoria Place was under different ownership and another scheme needed to be brought forward.

The 20mph zone would be extended down Mount Pleasant road to the junction with Church Road/Camden Road and would include parts of York Road, Dudley Road and Newton Road. This element could be revisited to look at the inclusion of all of the roads mentioned.

There were no specific action points arising from this presentation.

## 7. BRIEF UPDATE ON CALVERLEY GROUNDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

This was the working draft of a strategic management plan for Calverley Grounds which had been out to consultation. Following consideration by consultants the draft document would be presented to the Friends of Calverley Grounds for comment. A decision was expected at the February 2019 meeting of the Cabinet. A number of stakeholders including the park café, croquet club and park friends were included in the consultation. The level of consultation undertaken with young people would need to be looked at again to ensure that the right facilities were provided for that demographic. There would be an action plan included in the process and the final plan would be included in the discharge of planning conditions for Calverley Square.

It was too early to say whether there would be any new funding available for the park but producing the Plan was a key step towards bidding in the first instance.

There were no specific action points arising from this report.

## 8. CALVERLEY SQUARE UPDATE

The Head of Economic Development and Property provided an update on the Calverley Square scheme. Mr Candlin highlighted the following areas:

Following Full Council agreement in December 2017 for the scheme to progress, planning permission was granted 15 June, GVA consultants were then appointed on the client side and Mace as the construction contractor.

A Cabinet decision on the compulsory purchase order (CPO) had been taken for appropriation of Council land for development. The consultation period for the CPO had closed.

A memorandum of understanding had been signed for a Section 106 agreement with the Council as the developer committing to planning obligations.

A claim for a judicial review following approval of the planning application had been made. However, the application was refused and it was considered that the case was without merit, and that all costs were to be paid by the claimant.

The appointed construction contractor - Mace, had been involved in a number of major schemes nationally. The detailed design stage 4 was underway and included details such as the interior look of the buildings, what materials were needed and how facilities were accessed.

A meet the buyer event was being held on 2 October which would allow local businesses to speak to Mace and Mace's own contractors and to become part of the supply chain. 20 local businesses had signed up to attend. Following the design process, construction packages would be provided for tenders, ensuring the best price was achieved. It was hoped that the overall design period would be completed in December 2019.

There was a change to the design of the council chamber balcony and it was now extended further around the council chamber to improve the design relationship with Calverley Grounds. It had also been agreed that the planting/landscaping scheme introduced additional trees and 20 new trees would be included. In total there were 70 trees in the planting/landscaping scheme (4 more than there currently were).

A two-stage design and build process would be used. Mace was contracted for the pre-construction management agreement and the proposals would be presented to the contractor on the client-side to ensure they were financially correct and provided what was required. The Council was currently on track with the scheme and within budget, however, there would be subtle changes taking place such as the additional trees. A decision as to whether the Council entered into the contract with Mace would be needed by approximately 18 July 2019 allowing work to start on site by October 2019.

The site was still being assembled and negotiations were ongoing and positive. The freeholder of the dentists had accepted an offer and the tenant had been offered opportunities to relocate. Negotiations were also being held with the individual tenants of the great Hall.

The CPO was made on 22 August 2018 with a statutory 21 day objection period running until 17 September (with additional days allowed for bank holidays). It was expected that that an enquiry would be required in January - February 2019.

It was anticipated that a traffic regulation order would be published 1 November with a consultation period ending 26 November, consideration by the Council's Joint Transportation Board on 21 January and the TRO's being made March – April 2019. The TROs were required for changing the direction of traffic such as the introduction of drop-off points, the relocating loading bays and moving yellow lines. There would be both temporary and permanent changes of traffic direction.

The civic complex site was outlined in the December 2017 Full Council report and identified as workable for private residential use. However, the Council would be undertaking a feasibility study which would look in more detail at options for the site and how the Council would approach the market. It was expected that the work would start 8 October 2018 and the Council anticipated going to the market 18-24 months prior to vacating (the first quarter of 2020).

The following responses were provided to questions from members:

The review in April of Mace's full proposal would be undertaken by GVA and ACOM and would look at the cost elements. The proposal would then be assessed internally based on the recommendation of GVA. This would, in turn, be presented to the Council's Leadership Board with input from the Development Advisory Panel and a full Member briefing. There would also be opportunities for engagement with other stakeholders. A final report would be published based on the decision taken.

The toilets currently in the park would be replaced with facilities in the theatre. The bowling-green area in the Grounds would also have a toilet facility.

The layout for the Council Chamber and committee rooms was based on the potential for improved technology and digitalisation such as webcasting and paperless agendas. One strand of the detailed design work would look at the audio visual requirements which could include screens for the public. The room next to the Council Chamber would accommodate approximately 100 people. The project team was liaising with the democratic services team to look at the best options using the space.

The term 'disposal' for the civic complex referred more to it ceasing as an operational facility for the Council. Joint ventures would be considered along with a number of other options.

The impact of inflation on building costs and variations in interest rates were considered at the outset of the scheme and those assumptions were then built in to the costs.

It was anticipated that the overall build programme would be completed by the final quarter of 2021 with the new theatre and offices opening in the first quarter of 2022.

There were ongoing discussions with planners regarding the number of trees in Calverley Grounds and part of the discussion was whether an increase in trees would provide a benefit and what species would be best suited to the environment. The Friends of Calverley Grounds were also being consulted on this matter.

Mace was keen to see engage with opportunities for apprenticeships locally and would be attending a future skillsfest. Mace would attend future jobs-fairs and would also be engaging in a schools programme.

Elements identified as risks were the CPO's, the funding elements and more broadly ensuring that each stage was signed off. The risk register was being worked through although elements such as the timetable for the risk register and a changing economy were outside the control of the project team.

The CPO's referred to different pieces of land ownership but were covered by one order and as such would be dealt with at one enquiry.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Communication, Councillor Tracy Moore, highlighted the following points:

An important part of the project was the sense of pride and place that the scheme provided for residents. There was an economic benefit to the town and Calverley Square would contribute to £0.5 billion of potential investment over the next several years.

A number of businesses were investing in Tunbridge Wells because of the levels of confidence attributed to schemes such as the cultural and Learning Hub, public realm work and Calverley Square.

Calverley Square would drive up footfall and support local businesses. The development would add to the rich cultural offer that was already being provided in Tunbridge Wells.

There were no specific action points arising from this presentation.

#### **9. TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM**

Katharina Mahler-Bech provided an update on the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition. Katharina highlighted the following points:

250 competition entries had been received and the venue for the awards presentation was at the No1 Warwick Park Hotel. Several gold awards had been awarded throughout the Town. Tunbridge Wells had also been successful in achieving a number of awards in the South/ South East in Bloom competition. Grosvenor and Hilbert Rec had received a level 5, which was the highest award achievable.

Campaigning was already underway for entries to the following year's competition and additionally, with support from the Hospice in the Weald, eight families had opened their gardens to the public. This would take place again the following year.

There were no specific action points arising from this item.

#### **10. REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP – update from Jane Fenwick:**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Air Quality Management Plan was out for consultation until 28 October. There would be a Town Forum response but members were encouraged to respond directly or through the online survey. It was an important piece of work as it dealt with the air quality in the town's streets, which had an impact on the health of residents. Members were urged to provide any expertise they might have on the issue to the Town Forum.

#### **11. REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP – update from Mark Booker:**

**RVP** - The Town Forum had been advised by Hermes' planning consultants that they were not instructing the new owners. There was concern that this would lead to a delay and Council members were asked to obtain an update. Short term action was needed for those units that had been closed in order to bring forward the scheme.

Responses from members:

There was shared concern over the issues but the new owner was looking to regroup and rebuild and make effective use of the space in the development that was available.

Providing notices in the empty shops to advise the public that the development was being dealt with would avoid negative publicity.

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Cinema site and Union House - improved public relations was needed to keep the public informed as to what stage both schemes were at

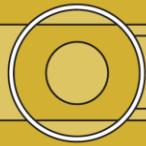
**10. REMAINING BUSINESS**

The Clerk to the Common's Conservators was standing down and a replacement was being looked for who could commit to 100-150 hours of work a year. The position was voluntary but with a small allowance. A link was available on the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators Website.

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of is scheduled for **Thursday 27 November** (starting with the AGM), at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.



### ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

**Thursday 27 September 2018**

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**TWBC officers present:** Mathew Jefferys (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager), David Candlin (Head of Economic Development and Property), Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment),

**Also present:** None

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from Michael Holman, Dorothea Holman, Margaret Ginman, Katharina Mahler-Bech, Karen Pengelly, Cllrs Lynne Weatherly and Peter Lidstone

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The following membership changes were noted:

1. The Banner Farm residents association had reactivated its membership. The representatives appointed were Diana Wilson-Armstrong and Veronika Segall-Jones (substitute).
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#### 3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman highlighted the following points:

It was very important that those members who had not returned their forms confirming evidence of AGMs taking place and details of discussions (minutes), details of appointed representatives and proof of a correctly constituted organisation, provide the required information.

New members were urgently sought for the working groups and the Management Group. Members of the Management Group had been involved for some time and A meeting had been held at the location of the Calverley Park Gardens and Carrs Corner junction with Kent County Council (KCC) Head of Transportation Tim Reed, KCC cabinet member, Catherine Rankin and borough councillor, Tracy Moore. There was a traffic accident during the site visit highlighting the issues involved and it was hoped that a commitment to finding a solution would be made.

# Agenda Item 7

Thursday 5 July 2018

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

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There were no specific action points arising from this presentation.

## **7. BRIEF UPDATE ON CALVERLEY GROUNDS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This was the working draft of a strategic management plan for Calverley Grounds which had been out to consultation. Following consideration by consultants the draft document would be presented to the Friends of Calverley Grounds for comment. A decision was expected at the February 2019 meeting of the Cabinet. A number of stakeholders including the park café, croquet club and park friends were included in the consultation. The level of consultation undertaken with young people would need to be looked at again to ensure that the right facilities were provided for that demographic. There would be an action plan included in the process and the final plan would be included in the discharge of planning conditions for Calverley Square.

It was too early to say whether there would be any new funding available for the park but producing the Plan was a key step towards bidding in the first instance.

There were no specific action points arising from this report.

## **8. CALVERLEY SQUARE UPDATE**

The Head of Economic Development and Property provided an update on the Calverley Square scheme. Mr Candlin highlighted the following areas:

# Agenda Item 7

Thursday 5 July 2018

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

Following Full Council agreement in December 2017 for the scheme to progress, planning permission was granted 15 June, GVA consultants were then appointed on the client side and Mace as the construction contractor.

A Cabinet decision on the compulsory purchase order (CPO) had been taken for appropriation of Council land for development. The consultation period for the CPO had closed.

A memorandum of understanding had been signed for a Section 106 agreement with the Council as the developer committing to planning obligations.

A claim for a judicial review following approval of the planning application had been made. However, the application was refused and it was considered that the case was without merit, and that all costs were to be paid by the claimant.

The appointed construction contractor - Mace, had been involved in a number of major schemes nationally. The detailed design stage 4 was underway and included details such as the interior look of the buildings, what materials were needed and how facilities were accessed.

A meet the buyer event was being held on 2 October which would allow local businesses to speak to Mace and Mace's own contractors and to become part of the supply chain. 20 local businesses had signed up to attend. Following the design process, construction packages would be provided for tenders, ensuring the best price was achieved. It was hoped that the overall design period would be completed in December 2019.

There was a change to the design of the council chamber balcony and it was now extended further around the council chamber to improve the design relationship with Calverley Grounds. It had also been agreed that the planting/landscaping scheme introduced additional trees and 20 new trees would be included. In total there were 70 trees in the planting/landscaping scheme (4 more than there currently were).

A two-stage design and build process would be used. Mace was contracted for the pre-construction management agreement and the proposals would be presented to the contractor on the client-side to ensure they were financially correct and provided what was required. The Council was currently on track with the scheme and within budget, however, there would be subtle changes taking place such as the additional trees. A decision as to whether the Council entered into the contract with Mace would be needed by approximately 18 July 2019 allowing work to start on site by October 2019.

The site was still being assembled and negotiations were ongoing and positive. The freeholder of the dentists had accepted an offer and the tenant had been offered opportunities to relocate. Negotiations were also being held with the individual tenants of the great Hall.

The CPO was made on 22 August 2018 with a statutory 21 day objection period running until 17 September (with additional days allowed for bank holidays). It was expected that that an enquiry would be required in January - February 2019.

It was anticipated that a traffic regulation order would be published 1 November with a consultation period ending 26 November, consideration by the Council's Joint Transportation Board on 21 January and the TRO's being made March – April 2019. The TROs were required for changing the direction of traffic such as the introduction of drop-off points, the relocating loading bays and moving yellow lines. There would be both temporary and permanent changes of traffic direction.

The civic complex site was outlined in the December 2017 Full Council report and identified as workable for private residential use. However, the Council would be undertaking a feasibility study which would look in more detail at options for the site and how the Council would approach the market. It was expected that the work would start 8 October 2018 and the Council anticipated going to the market 18-24 months prior to vacating (the first quarter of 2020).

The following responses were provided to questions from members:

The review in April of Mace's full proposal would be undertaken by GVA and ACOM and would look at the cost elements. The proposal would then be assessed internally based on the recommendation of GVA. This would, in turn, be presented to the Council's Leadership Board with input from the Development Advisory Panel and a full Member briefing. There would also be opportunities for engagement with other stakeholders. A final report would be published based on the decision taken.

The toilets currently in the park would be replaced with facilities in the theatre. The bowling-green area in the Grounds would also have a toilet facility.

The layout for the Council Chamber and committee rooms was based on the potential for improved technology and digitalisation such as webcasting and paperless agendas. One strand of the detailed design work would look at the audio visual requirements which could include screens for the public. The room next to the Council Chamber would accommodate approximately 100 people. The project team was liaising with the democratic services team to look at the best options using the space.

The term 'disposal' for the civic complex referred more to it ceasing as an operational facility for the Council. Joint ventures would be considered along with a number of other options.

The impact of inflation on building costs and variations in interest rates were considered at the outset of the scheme and those assumptions were then built in to the costs.

It was anticipated that the overall build programme would be completed by the final quarter of 2021 with the new theatre and offices opening in the first quarter of 2022.

There were ongoing discussions with planners regarding the number of trees in Calverley Grounds and part of the discussion was whether an increase in trees would provide a benefit and what species would be best suited to the environment. The Friends of Calverley Grounds were also being consulted on this matter.

Mace was keen to see engage with opportunities for apprenticeships locally and would be attending a future skillsfest. Mace would attend future jobs-fairs and would also be engaging in a schools programme.

Elements identified as risks were the CPO's, the funding elements and more broadly ensuring that each stage was signed off. The risk register was being worked through although elements such as the timetable for the risk register and a changing economy were outside the control of the project team.

The CPO's referred to different pieces of land ownership but were covered by one order and as such would be dealt with at one enquiry.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Communication, Councillor Tracy Moore, highlighted the following points:

An important part of the project was the sense of pride and place that the scheme provided for residents. There was an economic benefit to the town and Calverley Square would contribute to £0.5 billion of potential investment over the next several years.

A number of businesses were investing in Tunbridge Wells because of the levels of confidence attributed to schemes such as the cultural and Learning Hub, public realm work and Calverley Square.

Calverley Square would drive up footfall and support local businesses. The development would add to the rich cultural offer that was already being provided in Tunbridge Wells.

There were no specific action points arising from this presentation.

#### **9. TUNBRIDGE WELLS IN BLOOM**

Katharina Mahler-Bech provided an update on the Tunbridge Wells in Bloom competition. Katharina highlighted the following points:

250 competition entries had been received and the venue for the awards presentation was at the No1 Warwick Park Hotel. Several gold awards had been awarded throughout the Town. Tunbridge Wells had also been successful in achieving a number of awards in the South/ South East in Bloom competition. Grosvenor and Hilbert Rec had received a level 5, which was the highest award achievable.

Campaigning was already underway for entries to the following year's competition and additionally, with support from the Hospice in the Weald, eight families had opened their gardens to the public. This would take place again the following year.

There were no specific action points arising from this item.

#### **10. REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT STRATEGY WORKING GROUP – update from Jane Fenwick:**

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Air Quality Management Plan was out for consultation until 28 October. There would be a Town Forum response but members were encouraged to respond directly or through the online survey. It was an important piece of work as it dealt with the air quality in the town's streets, which had an impact on the health of residents. Members were urged to provide any expertise they might have on the issue to the Town Forum.

#### **11. REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING MANAGEMENT GROUP – update from Mark Booker:**

**RVP** - The Town Forum had been advised by Hermes' planning consultants that they were not instructing the new owners. There was concern that this would lead to a delay and Council members were asked to obtain an update. Short term action was needed for those units that had been closed in order to bring forward the scheme.

Responses from members:

There was shared concern over the issues but the new owner was looking to regroup and rebuild and make effective use of the space in the development that was available.

Providing notices in the empty shops to advise the public that the development was being dealt with would avoid negative publicity.

Cinema site and Union House - improved public relations was needed to keep the public informed as to what stage both schemes were at

**10. REMAINING BUSINESS**

The Clerk to the Common's Conservators was standing down and a replacement was being looked for who could commit to 100-150 hours of work a year. The position was voluntary but with a small allowance. A link was available on the Tunbridge Wells Commons Conservators Website.

**11. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meeting of is scheduled for **Thursday 27 November** (starting with the AGM), at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

# Agenda Item 9a

## Transport Working Group report to the RTW Town Forum on 22 November 2018

**Members:** Jane Fenwick (chair), Katharina Mahler Bech, Peter Perry, Sally Balcon, Adrian Berendt, Pat Wilson, Cllr Peter Lidstone, Jennifer Hemming/Ian Rennardson, Lorna Blackmore, Cllr David Scott. The last TWG meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**1. Calverley Park Gardens:** Residents and local councillors are continuing to monitor accidents, damage to street furniture and safety risks to residents. Replacement metal bollards installed but soon knocked over by HGVs. KCC has agreed to sturdier bollards and improved signage.

### **2. Cycling**

TWG members continues to monitor A26 cycle route and the progress of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Way.

### **3. TWBC Air Quality Management Plan.**

TWG contributed to the Town Forum's response and advised that it should include:

- a) concern about PM5 particulates generated from tyre and brake wear. Traffic congestion, HGVs and heavier vehicles (including electric powered cars with heavy batteries) are risk factors in RTW. Higher speeds also cause particulates to be stirred up from road surfaces.
- b) additional AQ measuring points in addition to the A26 corridor and cheaper mobile monitoring equipment across the town centre's most polluted places.
- c) pollution arising from idling vehicle engines particularly taxis, and wood-burning stoves.
- d) the impact of the school run.

The consultation response was submitted by the Town Forum by the closing date of 28 October.

**4. Driverless vehicles (DVs):** David Scott said DVs contribute to air quality because they are lightweight and electrically powered. He reported some positive progress from meetings held:

- a) TWBC cabinet is committed to considering the potential of such systems
- b) Discussions with housing developers have generated positive responses
- c) Cities such as Birmingham and Manchester are looking at developing DVs systems
- e) There is potential for RTW to be a pilot installation for smaller towns by creating links between residential communities, hospital, entertainment and retail in North Farm, schools and Tonbridge by sharing share cycle paths at 10mph and on footpaths at 3mph.

### **5. Parking**

TWG has requested a meeting with the TWBC's parking manager and is awaiting a response.

JF has written to Hilary Smith to request sight of the 'park and ride' study report which has not been released but says that implementation of a scheme is not recommended.

**6. Car free school zones:** Meetings have been held with KCC officers, Banner Farm residents and Claremont School about a KCC initiated pilot scheme to have no moving traffic close to the school at main arrival and exit times.

### **5. Joint Transportation Board Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October.**

TWG members attended. TWG is working to ensure a 'conveyor belt' of projects are being undertaken in RTW to improve safety of pedestrians and cyclists and traffic flow within the town centre. Three potential urgent projects have been suggested to Cllr Rankin to take to the JTB:

- a) Redesign of Vale Road/ London Road junction
- b) Church Road/London Road - provision of pedestrian crossing phases.
- c) Halls Hole Road/Bayham Road junction at Hawkenbury to be redesigned to take account of more traffic using Hall Hole Road following the installation of traffic lights on Pembury Road.

### **Public Transport Forum Thursday 1 November.**

TWG attended. Awaiting a response to a follow up email about the need to monitor the use of the bus stand on London Road. Local residents are concerned about the visual impact on the Common and historic area of the vehicles parked all day.

Town Forum members interested in taking part in the Transport Working Group should contact Jane Fenwick [fenwickjane@yahoo.com](mailto:fenwickjane@yahoo.com)

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WATER IN THE WELLS WORKING GROUP

## REPORT TO THE TOWN FORUM 22 November 2018

**The Working Group met on 6 November and will meet again on 15 January 2019**

We are pleased to announce that Pat Wilson and Mike McGeary have joined the Working Group.

1. **Union House:** Dandara have now appointed Ardmore Construction Ltd. as main contractors. A public square and water feature have both been specifically mentioned in the construction work description.
2. **Sussex Mews (Pantiles):** We are once again investigating the feasibility of opening up a small section of the Grom Brook to public view, replacing one of the man-hole covers with a strengthened glass or Perspex cover and installing lighting to permit viewing of the Grom flowing below.
3. **Grosvenor and Hilbert:** Marnock Lake has water once again - and ducks - but the accumulated mud and weeds, now with the addition of autumn leaves, have not been cleared. Although the pumps controlling the Dripping Wells have been repaired, they are not yet fully in operation. The wetlands are looking good.
4. **Royal Wells Park:** Despite the current leaf-fall, water is flowing well in both the upper and lower water feature. The illuminated stainless-steel lettering **SOMETHING IN THE WATER** attracts attention day and night. On my most recent site inspection, through the water I could see small denomination copper coins in the rills.
5. **Calverley Square:** We are awaiting the outcome of Leadership Board deliberations concerning the establishment of a consultative group to consider the design, dimensions and positioning of the water feature/public art included in the planning condition.
6. **Drinking water fountains:** following discussions with the TWBC Conservation Officer, Royal Tunbridge Wells Together has produced a design brief for drinking water fountains in the centre of town. Interest is currently centred on the Pantiles, but other potential sites have been identified. British Land and South East Water have indicated their support.
7. **Fiveways:** As the first stage in a long-term plan to make the immediate area round the Millennium Clock a more attractive meeting place, the charity 'Refresh Tunbridge Wells' is putting together a project to install water-themed mosaic artwork on the blank walls on the north and south side of the square.
8. **Calverley Grounds:** The town's very own frozen water feature, the festive season skating rink is now open. Worth a visit, even just to watch.

(*Michael Holman, Chairman, 'Water in the Wells'.  
E-mail: michaeldekholman@gmail.com.*)

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